Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NEA-07 L-01 H-01 PA-01
CIAE-00 EB-04 INR-05 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 OMB-01
IO-06 /040 W
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R 230307Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0504

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14703

USADB

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SEC HOLBROOKE

PASS TREASURYDEP FOR ASST SEC BERGSTEN

EO 11652:GDS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, ADB, VN
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADB REACTIVATION OF SPECIAL FUND LOANS
- FOR BINH DINH, GO CONG AND TAN AN AGRICULTURAL
- PROJECTS (VIETNAM)

REF: TREASURY 78-119

1. I HAVE REQUESTED THE BANK MANAGEMENT TO WITHDRAW THE SUBJECT LOAN REACTIVATIONS FROM THE BOARD AGENDA FOR AUGUST 24. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH TREASURY (WINDER), I AVOIDED USE OF THE PHRASE "FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE" AND ALSO AVOIDED REQUESTING THAT THE BANK STAFF COMPLETELY REAPPRAISE THE PROJECTS BEFORE THEIR RENEWED CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD. IN MY VIEW SUCH A REQUEST WOULD HAVE BEEN HIGHLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN THAT IT WOULD HAVE AROUSED THE ACTIVE OPPOSITION OF THE VIETNAMESE DIRECTOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE BANK MANAGEMENT, AND THE HEAVY MAJORITY OF THE BOARD, ALL OF WHOM WOULD HAVE REGARDED SUCH A REQUEST AS PUNITIVE IN NATURE AND DESIGNED TO DELAY THE LOAN REACTIVATIONS INDEFINITELY. WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED A RAPID COALESCING OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO PRESS MANAGEMENT TO RESCHEDULE THE LOANS AND UNDER THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AN ED CAN MAKE ONLY ONE REQUEST FOR A POSTPONE-

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MENT. THIS EVENTUALLY, OF COURSE STILL IS POSSIBLE, BUT IS LESS LIKELY, IF THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS DO NOT VIEW OUR POSTPONEMENT REQUEST AS BEING INDEFINITE IN NATURE.

2. ALSO TAILORING THE U.S. PROPOSAL IN SUCH A DRASTIC FASHION, WHICH IS ALREADY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE VISIT OF THE MONTGOMERY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO HANOI AND THE LATEST VIETNAMESE GESTURE ON MIAS, WOULD HAVE INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE REQUEST BEING RAPIDLY LEAKED TO THE PRESS WHERE IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS A NEGATIVE SIGNAL TO VIETNAM. AGAIN THIS POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS, AND WASHINGTON SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES ALTHOUGH I HAVE TRIED TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY BY REQUESTING THE POSTPONEMENT IN LOW KEY FASHION. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE VIETNAMESE ALTERNATE DIRECTOR, WHOM I INFORMED OF THE POSTPONEMENT REQUEST, EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE REGARDED BY BANK MEMBERS AS A MORE SEVERE U.S. ACTION THAN WOULD A NEGATIVE U.S. VOTE. ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES ATTACHED HIGH PRIORITY TO THE AGRI-CULTURAL PROJECTS AND WISHED THEM TO BE UNDERTAKEN PROMPTLY, HE DID NOT SEEM UNDULY DISTURBED AT THE U.S. ACTION.

3. I WILL REPORT FURTHER REACTION PROMPTLY. EDMOND

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